

COUNTY DESCRIPTION

Geographical Facts

Weakley County is located in the Northwest Region of West Tennessee, bordered on the north by Kentucky, on the west by Obion County, on the east by Henry County and on the south by Carroll and Gibson Counties. Weakley County contains five major townships: Dresden, Gleason, Greenfield, Martin and Sharon. The county is 576 square miles in area and is located approximately 145 miles northwest of Nashville, 125 miles northeast of Memphis.

Weakley County has a total population of 31,972 (1990 census) and Dresden is the county seat. The largest population centers are:

Dresden	2,749
Gleason	1,402
Greenfield	2,105
Martin	9,246
Sharon	1,047

The county operates one school system with several schools scattered throughout the county. There were approximately 5,177 students enrolled in the Weakley County School System during 1997-98. The University of Tennessee at Martin is located in the county.

Economic Base

The economy in Weakley County is diversified and not dominated by anyone source. The county's economic bases consist of retail trade and services, agriculture, and industry.

Total retail sales in 1997 were reported at \$173,293,906 with a per capita personal income in 1996 of \$17,833.

The major crops produced in Weakley County are: tobacco, corn, sweet potatoes, beans, cotton, milo, milk, beef and pork.

There are several industries operating in Weakley County and the county is continuing to grow and expand. The largest industries are MTD Products with 700 employees and World Color with 680 employees.

Health Care

Methodist Health Care, Volunteer Hospital serves Weakley County with a full range of diagnostic, therapeutic and specialty health care services. Volunteer Hospital consists of a 100-bed hospital, a center for wellness and rehabilitation center, and a home health agency. In addition to the hospital there are 32 physicians, 13 dentist and 3 nursing homes.

The Weakley County Ambulance Service, Inc has 6 vehicles and provides both advanced and life support services from stations in Dresden and Martin.

The Weakley County Health Department is the final piece of the health care puzzle, providing services including: WIC, family planning, immunizations, nutritional education and environmental services.